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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

**EXCISE**

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 UPW-01
OPR-02 RSR-01 /088 W
097172

R 190930Z OCT 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0962
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Izzo DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16225

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: KY'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES

REF: A. SAIGON 16004; [redacted]

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1. SUMMARY: IN RECENT STATEMENTS, VICE PRESIDENT KY HAS DENOUNCED THE "BRAZEN RIGGING" OF OCTOBER 3 ELECTION RESULTS, EMPHASIZED HIS DETERMINATION TO REMAIN IN VIETNAM FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATION AND HAS DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A "NEW, MORE MATURE" INDIVIDUAL. KY APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON HIS FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION BUT ADVISORS AND OTHERS APPEAR TO BE PUSHING HIM TOWARD LEADERSHIP OF SOME SUSTAINED OPPOSITION EFFORT, PROBABLY BASED ON HIS PEOPLE'S FORCE AGAINST DICTATORSHIP. MEANWHILE, KY'S PEOPLE'S FORCE EVIDENTLY IS STILL FOCUSED ON THE SHORT-TERM, PRE-INAUGURATION PERIOD BUT ALREADY APPEARS TO BE LOSING MOMENTUM. WE DOUBT THAT THE FORCE WILL DEVELOP INTO A SIGNIFICANT, LONG-TERM BASE OF SUPPORT FOR KY AND EXPECT THAT IT MAY NOT LONG SURVIVE THE INAUGURATION. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN A ONE-SENTENCE PRESS STATEMENT OCTOBER 6, VICE PRESIDENT KY DECLARED THAT "THE RESULTS OF THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTION, WITH FIGURES INDICATING PERCENTAGES NEARING 12 PERCENT, REVEALED RIGGING BRAZEN BEYOND IMAGINATION." KY HAS ISSUED NO OTHER FORMAL STATEMENTS SINCE THE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTING AND APPEARS TO HAVE CONFINED HIS POST-ELECTION ACTIVITIES TO STAFF CONFERENCES AND CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS "PEOPLE'S FORCE AGAINST DICTATORSHIP."

3. EARLIER, ON SEPTEMBER 30, KY REPORTEDLY TOLD GUESTS AT A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL RECEPTION THAT HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE VIETNAM AND DECLARED THAT THIEU COULD NEITHER "KILL HIM" NOR "SEND HIM ABROAD." KY AGAIN REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED THIEU AS OVERLY DEPENDENT ON THE UNITED STATES AND DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS "A DIFFERENT NGUYEN CAO KY, A MATURE KY WHO CAREFULLY CALCULATES EVERY STATEMENT AND ACTION." KY ALSO ASKED HIS AUDIENCE TO BELIEVE THAT "IN THE FUTURE HE WOULD NEVER MAKE RECKLESS AND INCONSIDERATE STATEMENTS, NOR COMMIT ANY BRAZEN ACTIONS."

4. DESPITE KY'S OWN RELATIVE PUBLIC RETICENCE IN RECENT DAYS, HIS PEOPLE'S FORCE AGAINST DICTATORSHIP, ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 24, HAS REMAINED ACTIVE. ON OCTOBER 3 IT CALLED ON THE SUPREME COURT TO ANNUAL THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RETURNS, WHILE ON OCTOBER 4 IT RELEASED THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE TO THE US CONGRESS REQUESTING IT TO END AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THIEU (REF B). ON OCTOBER 6 CHAIRMAN TRINH QUOC KHANH FILED A COMPLAINT IN THE SUPREME COURT CHALLENGING THE VALIDITY OF THE ELCTION (REF A). THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT THE PEOPLE'S FORCE ALSO PLANS A CAMPAIGN OF PUBLIC DENUNCIATIONS OF ELECTION RESULTS BY VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS.

5. DESPITE A PRESS STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN TRINH QUOC KHANH OCTOBER 6 (CHINH LUAN) THAT PEOPLE'S FORCE PLANS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BLOC, IT REMAINS DOUBTFUL THAT THE GROUP WILL LONG SURVIVE THE OCTOBER 31 INAUGURATION DAY. REPORTS INDICATE THAT SO FAR THE PEOPLE'S FORCE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO BROADEN ITS BASE. GENERAL MINH REMAINS ALOFF AND THE AN QUANG BUDDHISTS REMAIN DISTRUSTFUL OF KY AND ARE MORE INTERESTED IN THEIR OWN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE



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COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE (REFS C, E, F) AND IN AVOIDING FURTHER VIOLENCE (REF B). SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN OCTOBER 6 (TIN SANG), VENERABLE PHAP TRI, AN QUANG'S LIAISON WITH THE PEOPLE'S FORCE", REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED KY'S COMMITTEE AS AN "EMERGENCY-SHORT-TERM" ORGANIZATION BUT NOTED THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF BOTH GROUPS ARE "SIMILAR."

6. KY'S ADVISORS SUCH AS PRESS SECRETARY VU DUC VINH NEVERTHELESS ARE APPARENTLY ENCOURAGING HIM TO REMAIN POLITICALLY ACTIVE FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATION. THIEU'S COMPLETE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL, MINH'S LETHARGY AND THE BUDDHISTS' SUSPICIONS, HOWEVER, PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO FRUSTRATE ANY EFFORTS KY MAY MAKE TO BUILD A SIGNIFICANT, LONG-TERM POLITICAL BASE FOR HIMSELF. KY'S SEMI-RETIREMENT FROM 1968 TO 1970 SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY NOT POSSESS THE NECESSARY STAMINA AND PERSISTENCE TO LEAD A SUSTAINED OPPOSITION EFFORT UNDER MAJOR HANDICAPS.

7. THE ABSENCE SO FAR OF SERIOUS DISTURBANCES SINCE THE ELECTION MAY INDICATE THAT KY'S PEOPLE'S FORCE IS LOSING MOMENTUM. OTHER OPPOSITION ELEMENTS INCLUDING THE MILITANT VETERANS AND STUDENTS HAVE MUTED THEIR PROTESTS AGAINST THE ELECTION AND THE URBAN PUBLIC GENERALLY IS RELIEVED THAT THE WHOLE ELECTION BUSINESS IS OVER. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT NOW EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A LAST-GASP RENEWAL OF LIMITED DISORDERS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE INAUGURATION, PUNCTUATED BY SOME ANTI-AMERICAN PROTESTS, AND SOME FIRE-BOMBING OF MAINLY AMERICAN VEHICLES.
BUNKER



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